

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted concurrently with a request for filing a division of pending U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 10/650,890, which is itself a division of U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 10/047,964. Claims 1-2 and 4-19 appear in this divisional application. Claims 3 and 20-26 have been canceled. Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 3.

Claims 1-2 and 4-19 are the same claims which were previously allowed in parent U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 10/047,964. These claims were allowed in a Notice of Allowance mailed June 17, 2003. Applicants, however, unintentionally failed to pay the issue fee before the due date of September 17, 2003. These previously allowed claims are therefore being re-filed in this new divisional application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are in condition for allowance, early notice of which is requested.

No fee is believed to be due for the submission of this preliminary amendment. If any fees are required, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0458.

Respectfully Submitted,



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